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June 20, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SCHNACKEL APPOINTED HOUSING DIRECTOR

CHARLESTON -- Bill Schnackel, campus housing director at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has been named the director of housing and dining services at Eastern Illinois University.

Schnackel, who begins his new job on July 1, was selected following a national search. He replaces Kevin Cannon, who became the director of housing at the University of Notre Dame. Eastern's Mark Shaklee has been the acting director.

Schnackel will be responsible for the administration of the university housing program, residence life, dining services, camps and conferences and for the housing and dining services budgets, totalling \$18 million.

He will oversee 200 civil service and professional staff and more than 1,000 student employees. Eastern houses 5,800 students in 14 residence halls, 19 on-campus greek houses and 300 apartments.

Vice President for Student Affairs Lou Hencken, to whom Schnackel will report, said, "With Bill's background and wealth of experience, he certainly will be able to move our program forward. Eastern's housing program is well-known for its

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excellence, and I am confident that Bill will build upon its outstanding reputation."

Schnackel's job as campus housing director at UIC is similar to that at Eastern except he does not have direct responsibility for food services there and will have here.

Unlike Eastern, UIC is a commuter campus with an enrollment of 25,000 students; about 2,400 students reside in campus housing.

Under Schnackel's leadership, UIC has built two new residential facilities housing a total of 1,350 students and automated many of the administrative functions within the housing department.

Schnackel, a Purdue University graduate, has 23 years of full time experience in university housing and dining services. He has been the housing director at UIC since 1982. In addition, he has held administrative positions in housing at Oberlin College, Purdue University and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

He worked as a graduate assistant intern in university housing and food services while a student at Purdue and experienced residence hall life firsthand while pursuing his undergraduate degree.

During a visit to the Eastern campus the first week in June, Schnackel compared his new appointment to one of his favorite hobbies -- motor racing (Indy cars, NASCAR, etc.).

"My reaction to being offered the opportunity to come to Eastern Illinois University as the director of housing and dining services is similar to what I think

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Al Unser Jr. must have felt when he signed with Roger Penske and the Penske Racing Team -- the feeling of having the once-in-a-lifetime chance to work for one of the best organizations in the 'business.'"

Schnackel said his first goal as director will be to meet with all the housing and dining services employees, both individually and in work groups, so that he can acquire the best possible perspective on "life" in the university housing and dining services organization.

"Based upon the needs I hear being expressed, I will develop priorities for moving the organization and the individuals in the organization forward. I want to proceed in the direction which works best for Eastern and for the students and guests of the Eastern program, not necessarily what has been best for the other organizations for which I have worked," Schnackel said.

Schnackel will be arriving on campus as the university nears completion of a \$3.1 million addition to Greek Court and begins converting undeveloped land east of Greek Court into various sports fields and courts.

He said he is looking forward to working at a residential campus with a more collegial, traditional environment. Eastern is not without its challenges, however, Schnackel said. Obtaining funding for facility maintenance and becoming more competitive through the utilization of a customer-driven approach to serving students are among his top priorities.

Eastern is not unfamiliar to Schnackel. He has come to know many of the

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university's housing professionals through his affiliation with the Association of College and University Housing Officers -- International and the Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers.

He and his wife, Guna, and their two children, Chase, 10, and Jenny, 13, will be relocating to Charleston from Naperville later this month.